

Message Text

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S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, BEXP, RO

SUBJECT: GOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOINT VENTURE PROPOSAL

REF: BUCHAREST 6671

1. DEPARTMENT AND INTERESTED AGENCIES HAVE REVIEWED ROMANIAN PROPOSAL FOR AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. INITIAL EMBASSY ASSESSMENT THAT GOR PROPOSAL IS BASED ON FAULTY UNDERSTANDING OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USG AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY IS COMPLETELY ACCURATE. THERE IS NO REPEAT NO POSSIBILITY
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OF RESPONDING DIRECTLY TO THE ROMANIAN PROPOSAL FOR

ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT VENTURES IN THIS AREA ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS.

2. THIS IS NOT TO PREJUDGE, OF COURSE, THE POSSIBILITY THAT AN APPROPRIATE ROMANIAN FIRM COULD NEGOTIATE A JOINT VENTURE WITH AN INTERESTED FIRM IN THE UNITED STATES. SUCH A VENTURE WOULD DEPEND ON INTEREST ON BOTH SIDES AND THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE THOROUGH STUDY OF THE AMERICAN FIRMS ACTIVE IN THIS AREA TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY REALISTIC POSSIBILITIES EXIST. FOR ANY JOINT VENTURE, ROMANIAN INDUSTRIAL MINISTRIES AND/OR FOREIGN TRADING ORGANIZATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE INTIMATELY INVOLVED.

3. ALTHOUGH JOINT VENTURE ASPECT OF THIS AGREEMENT IS UNREALISTIC, SOME OTHER FORM OF AGREEMENT ON EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND PERSONNEL OR COOPERATION IN RESEARCH MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. OUR REACTION TO A BROAD AGREEMENT IN THIS AREA IS NEGATIVE, HOWEVER. IT IS CLEAR FROM THE NUMBER OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS WHICH WE HAVE WITH ROMANIA IN SUCH FIELDS AS AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION, AND HEALTH THAT AGREEMENTS IN AND OF THEMSELVES DO NOT INSURE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF MEANINGFUL COOPERATION. CONVERSELY, ABSENCE OF AGREEMENTS DOES NOT PREVENT COOPERATION IN INSTANCES WHERE THERE IS MUTUAL INTEREST AND ADVANTAGE. IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AREA THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INSTANCES OF SUCCESSFUL INTERCHANGE OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF AN AGREEMENT INCLUDING 1975 COMMERCE-SPONSORED TECHNICAL SALES SEMINAR AND 1971 COMMERCE-SPONSORED TECHNICAL SEMINAR (NO COMMERCIAL CONTENT). THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL EXCHANGE OF THIS TYPE IN FUTURE.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD ADVISE APPROPRIATE GOR OFFICIALS THAT USG IS NOT ABLE TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT ALONG LINES SUGGESTED IN ROMANIAN PROPOSAL. USG AGENCIES DO NOT NORMALLY ENGAGE IN COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES IN EITHER DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL AREA. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WILL MAKE AVAILABLE TO GOR LISTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF US FIRMS WHICH ARE ACTIVE IN RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EQUIPMENT AND WILL BE ABLE TO FACILITATE CONTACTS BETWEEN SUCH FIRMS AND INTERESTED ROMANIAN ENTITIES IF COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES APPEAR TO EXIST. EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE DETAILED INDICATIONS OF SPECIFIC FIELDS IN WHICH GOR IS MOST INTERESTED. FIRMS IN THIS FIELD ARE GENERALLY SMALL AND VERY SPECIALIZED SO THAT

MOST USEFUL LISTS CAN BE PREPARED ON BASIS OF REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC FIELDS OF EXPERTISE. PROVISION OF SUCH LIST DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ANY ENDORSEMENT OF FIRMS INCLUDED, NOR DOES IT IMPLY THAT FIRMS WOULD IN FACT BE INTERESTED IN COOPERATION WITH ROMANIANS.

5. IN ADDITION, WE FORESEE POSSIBILITIES OF FUTURE SIMILAR SEMINARS SUCH AS 1975 TECHNICAL SALES SEMINAR AND 1971 TECHNICAL SEMINAR WHICH PRESENT GOOD OCCASION FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN US AND ROMANIAN SPECIALISTS OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA. WE CANNOT STATE WITH ANY PRECISION AT THIS DATE WHEN MORE ACTIVITIES OF THIS TYPE MAY BE SCHEDULED FOR ROMANIA. HOWEVER, ROMANIAN INTEREST IN THIS FIELD WILL BE BORNE IN MIND WHEN SUCH PROGRAMS ARE PLANNED.

6. WHILE EPA IS NOT PREPARED TO CONCLUDE A FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH GOR ON COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH, EPA IS WILLING TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM OF DOCUMENT EXCHANGE WITH THE GOR. EPA INTEREST IN SUCH A PROGRAM IS LESS TO ASSURE A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE THAN TO ASSURE AN ORDERLY CHANNEL TO ROMANIAN PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL INTERESTED IN THIS FIELD AND TO OBTAIN THE NEED FOR RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS. EPA WILL FORWARD ITS PROPOSALS TO EMBASSY FOR DISCUSSION WITH GOR.

7. USDOC WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING ADDRESS OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT TO INFORM SEVERAL FIRMS WHICH HAVE INQUIRED. KISSINGER

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